

Prairie View A&M University

## Digital Commons @PVAMU

---

PV Panther Newspapers

Publications

---

10-13-2000

### Panther- October 2000 - Vol. LXXVIII, No.6

Prairie View A&M University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.pvamu.edu/pv-panther-newspapers>

---

#### Recommended Citation

Prairie View A&M University. (2000). Panther- October 2000 - Vol. LXXVIII, No.6., *Vol. LXXVIII, No.6*  
Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.pvamu.edu/pv-panther-newspapers/573>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Publications at Digital Commons @PVAMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in PV Panther Newspapers by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @PVAMU. For more information, please contact [hvkoshy@pvamu.edu](mailto:hvkoshy@pvamu.edu).



# THE PANTHER

panther@pvamu.edu Volume 78, Issue 6 October 13, 2000

The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

## Fire symbolizes Panther spirit

### Bonfire tradition continues with safety measures

By Torrie A. Richardson  
Panther Staff

It's that time of year again.

Prairie View's annual homecoming bonfire will be lit to help promote school spirit before taking on Alabama State.

Underneath the bonfire will be a coffin filled by the corpse of Alabama State's

Desmond Thomas, Student Government Association President has enlisted the aid of the Prairie View Volunteer Fire Department as well as the College of Architecture to complete building the bonfire structure.

The two expert organizations in building and fire safety were asked to help guarantee safety and other measures.

This precaution fol-

A&M tradition, 60 to 70 students were believed to be working on the site when a center pole snapped after being struck by a crane.

The stack which could have reached over two-stories high, shifted suddenly and then collapsed.

Officials later recanted the tradition, claiming it to be hazardous and a potential danger to students.

After last year's tragedy, A&M university officials also ceased the bonfire tradition for two years.

James M. Sanders of the College of Architecture and his students will actually draw up the plans for PVAMU's 2000 Homecoming bonfire.

The proposed dimensions will reach a height of fifteen feet and have a radius of roughly twenty feet.

The firefighter's will focus on handling the actual labor as well as the safety precautions of the entire event.

The SGA has also solicited the help of students.

lows the Texas A&M University tragedy.

During the early morning of Nov. 18 last year, a 40-foot stack of logs, being assembled for a Thanksgiving night game, collapsed killing twelve students and leaving at least 28 injured.

According to Texas

mascot, the Golden Lion.

The tentative completion date for the bonfire, which is located on FM 1098 near the post office and the community building, is Oct. 12. The bonfire will be lit on Friday, Oct. 13.

This year's bonfire is slated to be the best ever!



Students have been solicited to help volunteer firefighters and the architecture department build this year's bonfire.

## 'A dream come true'



Photos by Glenn Russell

Student Government Vice-President Jamie Jean escorts Grand Prince Desmond Thomas in the King and Queen's Ball, Odyssey 2000: A dream envisioned.

## New pill provides alternatives

By Yauna Estes  
Assignment Editor

The FDA has now approved an abortion pill as a method of pregnancy termination.

The abortion pill first entered clinical trials in Geneva, France and was later approved in 1981.

However, the French manufacturer by the name of Roussel Uclaf refused to market it in the United States.

In France, the coun-

try where the method is most popular, 25 percent of abortion patients chose the pill as a form of birth control.

The usage is low in Britain. About six percent use this as a method for terminating pregnancy. In Britain, woman wanting abortions must get approval from two doctors.

Mifepristone is expected to reach its first patients in the United

See **PILL** on Page 4

## In This Issue

Get 'Krunk and Vote' .... see Page 5

SWAC midterm grades .... See Page 6

Burning banned? .... see Page 7



•World•

**Yeltsin kept quiet about sex scandal**

Moscow

Boris Yeltsin, former Russian President, claimed to have known about President Bill Clinton's sex scandal being brought to the light before the news actually went public.

According to Yeltsin, Russia's intelligence services warned him that the Republicans were planning on alerting the public about the sex scandal, but he decided not to tell Clinton.

Yeltsin is reasoning for his silence is he did not believe the story and found it revolting by his moral standards.

**Couple fails in suicide attempt**

Zagreb, Hungary

A Croatian policeman and his fiancée attempted to kill themselves. Apparently, the couple locked themselves in a car, took handfuls of sleeping pills with alcohol and attached a hose to the car's exhaust pipe.

When this did not work, the officer shot himself in the right temple, but survived. The girlfriend immediately gave up and called an ambulance.

He is currently hospitalized, and she was treated and released from a hospital.

**Chronic sore throat due to nail**

Istanbul, Turkey

A 7-year-old Turkish girl who suffered throat pains since she was a toddler, had her tonsils removed.

According to doctors, she had a one and one-half inch nail lodged in her esophagus.

**Nobel medicine prize awarded**

Stockholm, Sweden

Arvid Carlsson of Sweden, Paul Greengard and Eric Kandel of New York share the first Nobel prize of 2000.

Their studies were focused on how messages move around the nervous system, making it possible to develop drugs to treat Parkinson's disease and schizophrenia.

•National•

**Bank robber caught on bus**

New York, New York

Valerie Coletti, pulled up to a teller's window holding a blue bag and pointed a black gun at the teller demanding that she put cash in the bag.

The teller did as instructed, allowing Coletti to collect \$8,300. The teller immediately flagged down a policeman and told him the robber got on the bus.

The police tracked the bus down and arrested the woman. When asked why she chose to ride the bus, Coletti said she didn't have any money to take a cab.

**Man dies after jump**

New York, New York

Nineteen-year old Sylvian Laverriere jumped 65 floors from the Empire State building after breaking up with his girlfriend.

It was reported that the last person jumped from the building was in 1988.

Overall, there have been 30 suicides since 1931 when the building opened.

**Woman dies in house of cats**

Albuquerque, New Mexico

The body of Kathleen Morgan, 84, was found after complaints were made about an overpowering aroma coming from a house in the local neighborhood.

Morgan was found in her home dead, along with 130 cats, which were also mostly dead.

The cats were not the cause of Morgan's death. She had been dead for two days.

**Mother and son accused of death**

New York, New York

Madeline Carmichael and her son allegedly beat her 3-year-old toddler until the baby was unconscious.

After they beat the child, they wrapped the body in plastic and newspapers, stuffed it in a trunk, and stashed it away in a locked bedroom closet.

The pair is on trial for committing second-degree murders for the 1979 slaying. If convicted, they could face up to 25 years to life in prison.

•Regional•

**Car show debut with music festival**

Houston, Texas

The Houston Music Festival at Greenspoint Mall is scheduled for Oct. 21-22.

Through the duration of the festival, R&B greats such as the Commodores will be performing. The event will also include a Classic Car Show which is expected to draw more than 200 cars and numerous car clubs throughout the area.

For more information about entering the car show, call 281-872-9933. For other festival information, contact North Houston Greenspoint Chamber of Commerce at 281-872-8700.

**Council gives tax cut approval**

Houston, Texas

Homeowners in the city of Houston can look forward to a tax cut. The compromise ended with a one-percent property tax cut.

The original proposal was for a two-percent tax cut, but the mayor declined because it would be too large of a rollback and would cut into city services.

**Civil rights groups support arena plan**

Houston, Texas

The NAACP and Urban League, as well as many other local minority business leaders, approve of the arena after the Rockets promised 28-percent of construction and operation contracts for the new arena to support minority businesses.

The new arena will be on the November election ballot.

**Holleman sponsors mentor program**

Waller, Texas

Holleman Elementary is hosting a Special Friends mentor program.

They are asking for anyone to share some of the wealth of their experience with a young student.

Orientation will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 12 noon. For more information contact Lois Faigle at (936) 372-9169 to R.S.V.P.

# Calendar of events

## 13 Friday

Pick up your copy of The Panther Mock funeral/Pep Rally/ Bonfire, Prairie View, TX, 6pm  
Patti LaBelle concert, Babydome, Prairie View, TX, 8pm  
Alumni Homecoming Banquet, Prairie View, TX, 5:30pm

## 14-15 Sat./Sun.

Panthers vs. Alabama State, Blackshear Stadium, Praire View, TX, 2pm  
Homecoming Stepshow & Party, Babydome, Prairie View, TX 8pm  
Homecoming Parade, W.R. Banks, Prairie View, TX, 9:30am  
Campus Clean-up, all day

## 16 Monday

Kennedy Houston Symphony, Jones Hall, Houston, TX, 8pm  
A Midsummer Night's Dream, Alley Theatre, Houston, TX  
Mary Karr book reading, Brazos Bookstore, Houston, TX, 7pm

## 17 Tuesday

Panther Meeting - 5:30pm  
The Passion of Dracula, Strand Theatre, Galveston, TX  
The Hairy Ape, Clear Creek Country Theatre, Houston, TX  
The Adventures of Peer Gynt, Miller Outdoor Theater, Houston, TX, 11am  
BET, Prairie View, TX, All day

## 18 Wednesday

Lady Panthers vs. Wiley, Marshall, TX, 4pm  
Misery, Little Room Downstairs Theater, Houston, TX  
Wings of Witness, Holocaust Museum, Houston, TX, 9am-5pm  
Julio Iglesias in concert, Aerial Theater, Houston, TX, 8pm

## 19 Thursday

1776, Arena Theatre, Houston, TX  
Sea Turtle exhibition, Galveston, TX, 11am



**Shades of Beauty Hair Design & Beauty Supply**

**"Project Self Esteem" monthly specials**

Month of October:  
Wednesdays only, Styles only \$20.00 (\$25.00 value or less only)

Mon.: 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	2506 Hempstead Hwy. Waller, TX 77484 (936) 372-9464
Tues.-Wed.: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	
Thurs.-Fri.: 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	
Sat.: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	

*Walk-Ins Welcome*



**RUB-A-DUB**

**Self-Service Laundry**

Air Conditioned  
Open 7 days a week  
7 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Last Wash 8:40

**Wash & Fold Service**  
.60lb./over 35lbs.-.50 lb.

Attendant on duty!  
1102 Lafayette  
Hempstead, TX  
(409) 826-6014



•LETTER TO THE EDITOR•

# Six steps to deletion Male offers opinions on counterpart's behavior

Players, dogs, and no good men are all that women say they find. But this is not true because there are some good men out there.

The problem is the women at Prairie View.

They give out their phone numbers as if they are interested, and when a male tries to show interest, what does he have to go through to get your attention?

He calls, he tries to come over, he even tries to take her out, but all she can do is make excuses.

So for the females who don't take advantage of good opportunities, there is only one real thing to do 'DELETE THEM' nicely.

Deletion is not an easy process.

Maybe you really like the young lady, but she is not showing interest. So to make yourself and her happy, follow the deletion process:

•**Exchange of phone number** She gave the phone number to you as if she was interested. It may be the real number or a false number.

•**The Call** You call and attempt to talk to her. She keeps telling you to call her back or she gets her roommates to say she is not there or she is sleep, etc.

•**The Yard** The next day, you and the female run into each other on the yard. She apologizes for being so busy the night before. Then she tells you to call her tonight because she is not playing.

•**Next Call** Refer to step 2.

•**Deletion Verification** Your closest homeboy or friend recognizes the facts for the ground for deletion of this female's phone number.

•**D-Day** Therefore, the next day it is deletion day (D-Day). On that day both of you happen to approach each other.

Before she attempts to hug you stop her, politely shake her hand and let her know that she has been deleted out of your cell phone or any other type of mental Rolodex. Then politely shake her hand and say, "Shake my hand, be my friend."

Sincerely,  
M. Dungeon

# Campus feels good like grandmas' 'chitlins'



By Sheleah Hughes  
Editor-in-Chief

The best things are always at home.

Just think: your mom's cooking is a lot better than Black Eyed Pea, McDonald's or any other restaurant.

The way your grandma irons your pants,

cleans 'chitlins' or sings lullabies is better than a million dollars.

Just this week, I found out that the best of everything is also right here at Prairie View.

We have the best sports fans in the SWAC.

Sure, we may talk about the football team or laugh at the receiver who never catches a ball, but when it is nearly 40 degrees outside and raining, we will be there in our pajamas to witness a win.

The best faculty and staff are right here on 'The Hill,' too.

We, as students, complain about professors who

show up late, take attendance and are strict.

But in all honesty we know deep down inside those are the same teachers who will give you a little extra credit to get an A, and even accept those bogus doctor's notes.

We have staff members who will get you hooked up to the internet in five minutes, take a professional photo of you and even give you five letters of recommendation for the same scholarship or organization whenever you ask.

We forget to recognize what we have right here at PVAMU. Instead, we go elsewhere and look for solutions, the creme of the crop is at our front door.

# My name is NOT Badu



By Felicia Walker  
News Editor

Even though we attend a HBCU, Prairie View students are not exempt from diversity.

Diversity is what college is all about. The opportunity to enter a diverse environment is what draws students to college life.

For example, the other day I was on my way to Alumni wearing one of my usual black headwraps, and I found myself to be the center of odd looks and stares.

"Hey Badu" and "what's up Erykah" seemed to be the common remark of the day. A few even thought I was Muslim and some were brave enough to ask me if a headwrap had something to do with my religious beliefs.

What is the problem with a "sister" or other students of African descent exhibiting this form of self-expression?

The only answer I wished to give was, "my name is not Badu and no...my religion is Christian," simply to say that I consider myself a very diverse human being.

Have European weaves and acrylic nails become such a societal normality that we forget about our own African beauties?

Headwraps are apart of OUR culture and can carry some spiritual meaning,

but overall the decision to wear them is made by women or men wearing the headwrap.

True, Erykah Badu brought the headwrap out of hiding and put it into the eye of the mainstream public for some, but don't fool yourselves into thinking she was the first and only one embracing this cultural art form.

As black people in America, we should learn to respect our diverse surroundings.

Students should not be bound to the latest fashion trends in order to be categorized as normal. The ability to be flexible and try something new is what keeps each of us different and unique.

What is not normal is the fact that some choose to destroy our culture, rather than to uplift and pass it on to future generations.

## The Panther Staff

Sheleah Hughes : Editor-in-Chief  
Kalyn Bullock : Managing Editor  
Kandyace Mayberry : Advertising Manager  
Tina M. Ellis : Entertainment Editor  
Quincy Higgins : Illustrator

Glenn Russell : Photography Editor  
Felicia Walker : News Editor  
Roshon George : Graphic Designer  
Ryan McGinty : Sports Editor  
Yauna Estes: Assignment Editor

The Panther Advisor :  
Dr. Kimetris Baltrip

Technical Assistant :  
Gitonga M'Mbijewe

Phone: (936)857-2132 • Fax: (936)857-2340 • Suite 23 Drew Hall • P.O. Box 2876, Prairie View, TX 77446 • panther@pvamu.edu

The Panther is a publication supported through advertising and student activity fees. Views expressed within the publication are not necessarily those shared by Prairie View A&M University or the Texas A&M University Board of Regents.

## Submission Policy for Letters to the Editor

Anyone who reads The Panther can submit a letter to the editor by fax, e-mail, or postal service. All submissions are subject to editing and must include the author's name and telephone number.



## CAREER FOCUS

### PV graduate represents to the fullest

Byron Williams, a PVAMU graduate of Civil Engineering, is shining for Exxon Oil Company.

While attending PV, Williams participated in two internships that helped him to gain experience and understand what he wanted to do after graduation. He worked for the Internal Revenue Service as an evaluation engineer and he also worked for NASA's Johnson Space Center where he worked on building an oxygen production plant for use on Mars.

This is where Williams found his niche for building things.

Williams is currently serving as a senior supervising engineer for Exxon, where he is responsible for several oil and gas fields in the Louisiana and Gulf of Mexico areas.

While leading a team, his main goal is to identify and evaluate ways to help increase the oil and gas production of 10 offshore and 14 onshore fields.

### NSF Graduate Research Fellowships

The National Science Foundation will be awarding graduate study fellowships leading to research-based master's or doctoral degrees in fields supported by the NSF, including: mathematical, physical, biological, behavioral and social sciences, engineering, history and the philosophy of science, and for research-based Ph.D. degrees, in science education.

The awards include \$16,800 for a twelve-month tenure; cost of education allowance of \$10, \$500 per tenure, and a \$1000 International Research Travel Allowance.

The deadline is Nov. 7, 2000. For more information visit <http://www.orau.org/nsf/nsff.html>.

# Campus security ensures safety

By Aqueelah Anderson  
Panther Staff

Homecoming activities bring special attention to the Prairie View A&M University police department which must ensure that students and visitors enjoy the activities with complete security and safety.

The PVAMU police department adheres to the guidelines of the Campus Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990 Section 204, for the disclosure of campus security and campus security statistics.

In any case of an emergency, all criminal offenses which occur on campus should be reported to the Department of Public Safety.

The telephone number is (936) 857-4823 and offices are located in the Central Receiving Warehouse building.

Medical emergencies

requiring an ambulance may be reported directly to the Waller County Communications Office by dialing 9-911 from any campus extension.

When trying to obtain access to the campus, the police may request proper identification of individuals they encounter on the campus.

Officers will target people who are encountered during late night hours under suspicious circumstances or in response to reports by University community members.

Law enforcement officials are required to enforce all federal, state and local laws within their jurisdiction.

Officers are also required to enforce rules and regulations issued by the Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University system for property under the control of Prairie View A&M University.

## Fund run comes in first



Photos by Glenn Russell

Gwendolyn Richie, Interim University Public Information Officer, carries a cross to commemorate fallen students during the fund run.

### Pill from page 1

States, later this month. The pills will be available through traditional abortion clinics and family planning centers.

The National Abortion Federation says that two-thirds of its 360 member clinics are prepared to offer Mifepristone immediately.

The abortion pill, RU-486 or Mifeprex, is considered an alternative to surgical abor-

hormone that prepares the lining for the uterus for a egg and then maintains the pregnancy.

If the pregnant woman has no serious health conditions, and the pregnancy is no more than 49-days-old, then the patient is given three Mifepriston pills. Forty-eight hours later, the patient is given two different pills.

Studies show that the

# 'Get Krunk 'n Vote'

## SGA sponsors voter registration drive

By Felicia Walker  
News Editor

On Nov. 7, Americans across the country will march to the polls and register their vote for the next president of the United States.

The Student Government Association realizes the importance of the upcoming elections and encourages all students to participate.

This years Student Government Association coined the theme, "Get Krunk and Vote" as a means to encourage students to participate in the 2000 Presidential elections.

The SGA has organized a nine-week awareness campaign to emphasize the importance of voter education.

SGA representative

Courtney Wilson said they hope to increase university level participation by registering 5000 voters and having them vote on or before election day.

"We as students must understand our power as the next leaders of this country," Wilson said.

In order to promote voter registration, the SGA has scheduled events targeting the student population. The campaign began Sept. 12 and will continue

each week until election day on November 7.

On two days, Oct. 18 and the 25 SGA will promote "Krunk Day on the Hill."

This event will allow all students who are not registered to vote W a l l e r County, the opportunity to do so.

"It's OK to get krunk about getting involved politically," said Wilson.

"Leaders don't have to be in stuffy suits to make a difference."

### Voter Registration Websites

Online State Registration:

[homeadvisor.msn.com/moveRegVoteIntro.asp](http://homeadvisor.msn.com/moveRegVoteIntro.asp)

[www.fec.gov/votregis/vr.htm](http://www.fec.gov/votregis/vr.htm)

[www.rockthevote.org](http://www.rockthevote.org)

## Classifieds

HEY YOU!!

Do you have any 20 Questions? If so, turn them in to the Office of Student Publications in Drew Hall, Suite 23 or e-mail them to [panther@pvamu.edu](mailto:panther@pvamu.edu).

For more information, call 936-857-2132

**Rainbow Beauty Salon**  
112 Suite A, Hwy 290 E, Hempstead  
**Ask for Conya**  
Special: Shampoos & Style \$20  
Wednesdays & Thursdays  
979-826-3636  
Hours: Wed.-Fri., 9-8 Sat., 8-3

**D.J. B-LOVE**  
**HE MAKES THE PARTY**

HOT



713-698-1948  
Office Hours: 6 AM-9PM

**Call for Booking & Promotions**

### Top 5 Ways You Can Tell It's Homecoming

5. Class attendance decreases in classes on Thursday.
4. Class attendance is NON-EXISTENT on Friday.
3. Administrators, Faculty and Staff members (and some freshmen) wear purple & gold everyday of the week.
2. Prairie View becomes the site for the Annual Law Enforcement Convention.
1. University Drive becomes a food court.

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## Visitation during Homecoming 2000

During Homecoming Week, October 8-October 14, 2000, the visitation guidelines will be as follows:

- Only immediate family members (parents, legal guardians or siblings) may visit residents in their rooms.
- All visitation will be limited to the hours of 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Valid identification of visiting guests is required. Temporary visitation passes will be issued to authorized guests (parents, legal guardians, or siblings).
- Only vehicles with current authorized University Village parking permits will be allowed into the gated communities of University Village. Residents who arrive in vehicles with no authorized University Village parking permit will be denied access. Residents are strongly encouraged to leave vehicles parked in the gated communities and to walk to as many events as possible. Strict vehicle and pedestrian access control will be implemented throughout this period.
- No facilities in University Village communities or the Banks Hall are available for private organizational activities.

All students are encouraged to participate in the breakfast meals available after the last event on Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14. Immediately following breakfast, all students are asked to return to their respective residential communities and avoid any outside congregation.

### MOBILE SOUND

We will match any competitors prices with \$10.00 less.

#### Auto Alarms \$99

K-9, Prestige or ENFORCER

- 2000 Model
- Keyless Entry
- Shock Sensor
- Parking Lights
- Kill Switch
- Two Remotes
- Panic Mode
- Auto Arming
- Lifetime Warranty

ALL OPTIONS WITH 2 REMOTE CONTROLS

#### Mobile T.V. \$109

• 4" Screen • Color • Custom Fit

#### Auto Tek Special

FREE Bass Box with Purchase of Two Woofers

Auto Tek Amplifiers \$99 up

Subwoofers \$99 up

- Mean Machine
- Street Machine
- Supersport
- Red Line

#### Sony \$119

- AM/FM Cassette
- Detachable Face
- 50 Watts x 4
- High Power

#### Connectel Cellular Phones

Includes Home Charger

FREE Activation

FREE Voicemail

FREE Caller I.D.

Includes 20 minutes FREE

\$69.00

#### Pagers \$39.95

FREE Activation

FREE Voice mail

FREE Pager Case

\$5.95 Mo.

#### J.V.C. CD Player \$199

- D/Face
- Remote Control
- Custom File
- 40 Watts x 4

#### Window Tint \$99

• Lifetime Warranty

HEMPSTEAD

341 10th St.

(Across from Dairy Queen)

(979) 826-6630

Now hiring installers and window tinters.

Good Salary!

BRENHAM

700 G West Alamo

(Across from Pizza Hut)

(979) 251-8884

## \*\* COME HOME \*\*

### taking applications

to rent TWO rooms remaining!!

**\$310**

room for rent

(put down \$310 a deposit for move in plus)

If you are someone who wants: a mature, quiet, responsible and cooperative atmosphere... non-smoking atmosphere

**REQUIREMENT:** Be prepared to pay the deposit. Pay application fee and rent: utility pay starts the following month: Must be able to SPLIT water EXPENSE with OTHER TENANTS.

**FEATURES:** Upstairs room has carpet, new personal air conditioner, full-size bed, dressers, and even a **DRAFTING TABLE** which can be utilized by Architect, Design & Art students needing their space to rent & work.

**PLACE:** Less than fifteen minutes walk to Prairie View Campus

**FOR INQUIRY:** Call 936-857-5598 for an interview with our manager or 979-826-6091.



## Dear Alcorn, I apologize

By Ryan McGinty  
Sports Editor

I am writing this letter to you because I understand what your football program is going through as of now. I am apologizing for the way our football team treated you on your last weekend. We did not mean to make your visit an uncomfortable one; this is coming from my heart. I want to send my sincerest apologies to your campus administration, football coach, his staff, and the players.

First of all, I want to send your head coach, Dr. Johnny Thomas, my deepest sympathies. The lost to Prairie View probably will cost him his job and a blemished resume. Alcorn fans do not put your coach out because of the recent loss to the Panthers. He had several losing seasons before; all we did was add to it.

Dr. Thomas, is there anything we can do to make your week easier? I know it is your homecoming this weekend and I am sure you have a lot of pressure to deal with. It will be hard to compete against an undefeated Texas Southern team. Who would have thought the word Texas would be a dirty word on your campus this weekend?

I now want to address the fans of Alcorn State. The campus of Prairie View A&M apologizes for causing the wind and rain last Saturday. Next time you grace our campus, we will try to make sure it will not rain. We did not mean to make the conditions impossible for your team to overcome. We tried our best to make you feel at home.

I would also like to apologize to the Alcorn "Sound of Dynamite" Marching Band. I am sorry you could not step off the bus and support your football team. Your presence would have probably carried the team over the top. I was almost at the brink of shedding a tear after noticing the looks on your face once the Panthers defeated your football team.

Finally, I would like to address the football team of Alcorn State University. The world knows you took the Panthers lightly and expected an easy win. You had plenty of reasons to do so. You were playing a school that lost 67 SWAC games in a row during a transition year.

Everyone except the campus of Prairie View expected you to walk in and coast to a win. I am sorry that our football team scored 25 first half points on your defense.

The players did not mean to record season highs against you all. You are Alcorn, alma mater of the great Steve McNair, this was not supposed to happen. We are sorry that you had to miss a field goal to lose the game. We feel your pain.

The campus of Prairie View understands what you are going through Alcorn. If there is anyone who should apologize, we should.

We have been where you are and it is not nice. A winless season is not good for the soul.

Enjoy your homecoming this weekend, our fans are very happy thanks to you all.

Alcorn, you will always have friends at Prairie View A&M University.

## Panther football ends SWAC streak

By Maurice May and  
Panther Staff  
Ryan McGinty  
Sports Editor

It took six head coaches and years of heartbreak, but the Panthers of Prairie View A&M University have finally come out on top.

In front of 1,031 rainsoaked fans, the Panthers defeated Alcorn State 25-22, earning their first Southwestern Athletic Conference win since 1989.

Freshman quarterback Allyn Sheffield, who was starting in place of starter Jamaal Foster, and senior running back DeMelvin Kelley set the tone for the Panther early in the game.

Sheffield and Kelley each rushed for two first half touchdowns under wet field conditions to give the Panthers a 25-0 halftime lead. Enter-Panther offense had not scored a rushing touchdown all season.

The second half belonged entirely to the Panther

defense. The Panther offense, which sparkled in the first half, did not move the ball as effectively in the second half.

The Panthers tried to hold on to the ball as much as possible during the half, but could not convert several critical third down plays.

As a result, the Panthers had to rely on their defense the entire half. Alcorn took advantage of the Panthers' offensive woes immediately.

On Alcorn's opening drive of the third quarter, quarterback Surhaver Fair broke away from the pressure in the pocket and ran in for a 73-yard touchdown.

On the following series, the Braves forced the Panthers to punt the ball. On the punt return, broke away from the coverage and raced 74 yards for the score.

As the Panther offense continued to struggle

in the fourth quarter, the Brave offense continued their comeback. Reynolds scored his second touchdown of the night on a 22-yard pass from Fair with 7:39 left in the fourth quarter. Reynolds' touchdown narrowed the score to 25-20. From that point on, the Panther defense rose to the occasion.

After another unsuccessful series, which found the Panthers deep inside their own 10-yard line on fourth down, Sheffield surrendered a safety with 51 seconds left in the game to bring the Braves within three points. During the final drive, the Panther defense forced Alcorn to attempt a 45-yard field goal to tie the game, but it was short.

Sheffield finished with 92 rushing yards on 33 carries. In addition, he also completed nine passes for 119 yards. Kelley had four receptions for 37 yards and 59 rushing yards.

Prairie View has now won one game in the last three seasons with different head coaches. The Panthers face Alabama State this weekend.

SWAC football race enters critical point  
Surprise teams land inside track to championshipBy Ryan McGinty  
Sports Editor

As the month of October winds down, the road to the Southwestern Athletic Conference championship becomes less congested. The pretenders and the contenders have been separated from each other and the serious races begin.

However, this season has been nothing short of surprises for members of the conference. The teams who were picked to win in July are struggling teams who are out of the conference race.

As the SWAC approaches midseason, let's take a look at the contenders and pretenders.

The contenders are: **Alabama State** - The Hornets (4-2) are the surprise team of the conference. Under new coach L.C. Cole, the Hornets have defeated the conference powerhouses and made a statement that they

are for real. The Hornets have the inside track to the SWAC Championship game due to their early wins over contending teams.

**Texas Southern** - The Tigers (5-0) are off to their best start since their 1952 team. The Tigers boast division 1-AA's top defensive unit. Grambling and Southern are the only teams left that pose a threat to a trip to Birmingham.

**Grambling** - The Tigers (5-1) are living up to their lofty preseason expectations. However, Grambling has the hardest road to Birmingham. The Tigers face several teams who are in the thick of the SWAC race.

Here are the pretenders:

**Southern** - The defending SWAC champion has fallen on hard times this season. The Jaguars (2-4) have lost four games in the month of September. Jaguar fans have to find some-

thing else to do after the Bayou Classic this season.

**Jackson State** - Who expected both Jackson (3-2) and Southern to fall so early? The Tigers have struggled all season long and cannot find the consistency they possessed in the 1990s. The Tigers have to hope Alabama State collapses in order for them to return to Birmingham.

**Alabama A&M** - The Bulldogs (3-3) have suffered problems on the field and off the field. They are not consistent which has led to strife between coaches. The Bulldogs are playing for pride.

**Arkansas-Pine Bluff** - The Golden Lions (3-2) cannot maintain the consistency needed to win championships. They defeated Southern, but have suffered defeats to TSU and Alabama State. A win against Grambling this weekend will put them back as a contender.

Mississippi Valley and Alcorn are both winless and out of the conference race.

Disney does it again!  
'Remember the Titans' opens with millions

If you are the kind of person who loves a Cinderella movie, *Remember the Titans* is the movie for you. This film will make you leave feeling good, and will help you to realize how much things have changed since the early 1970s.

Oscar winner Denzel Washington portrays Coach Herman Boone, who is the new African-American head football coach of the Titans football team.

Boone's arrival caused an uproar in the town of Alexandria, a town recently uprooted from its segregated schools and forced to integrate blacks into the white public school system.

Now it's Boone's job to bring unity among the blacks and whites on the team.

The only problem

You and your friends are at the local mall and you all decide to stop at Sam Goody. Just as you are about to buy the new Ruff Ryders CD, your friend grabs you and says, "You don't have to buy it. I can burn it for free through Napster."

This has become the lingo around college campuses everywhere: "Why buy when you can burn?"

Ever since the introduction of Napster, a website which enables you to get music off of the internet, and MP3s, which can be purchased in stores, music lovers all over the world have been downloading their favorite artists rather than purchasing the albums in stores.

Leading the battle to stop Napster is heavy metal band Metallica and rap superstar Dr. Dre. Metallica has gone as far as to sue Yale and Indiana Universities for the abundant use of Napster on the campus, but the charges were later dropped after the two colleges banned using Napster on the campus.

One of the main problems was that the abundance

with this situation is that the white boys on the team decide to boycott if Coach Yoast, their old coach, is not part of the team. So Yoast decides to work under Boone as assistant coach.

could turn the whole town around.

Remember the Titans is based on a true story that some may say is too good to be true.

This movie is not just

Coach Boone (Denzel Washington) motivates players in *Remember the Titans*.

Boone comes in with his strong charisma and trains the boys to be and play as one. While doing this, he never realized that uniting a football team of mixed races

for those who love football, but for those who want to see a clean, honest film about a real life situation.

By Kalyn Bullock  
Managing Editor

more than 135 college campuses that have limited student access to Napster by blocking the site, citing bandwidth issues.

Harvard University has taken steps to allow Napster use to continue by increasing its bandwidth. However, cost prohibits some schools from following its lead.

Napster is currently trying to come up with ways to stop network overloading and increase the download time. It will now start searching under Internet 2, an advanced academic high speed network that connects more than 170 colleges and universities across the country. So far, only Indiana University has agreed to lift the ban.

Campus officials currently have no plans to ban the site from PVAMU. Attempts to download music in campus computer labs have been successful.

According to Doss Pruitt, a computer technician in the Farrell Hall lab, the site is not likely to be banned unless it begins to pose a problem.

By Brit Bell  
Panther Staff

## 20 Questions

1. Is the track team jealous of the volleyball team?
2. And can somebody please get them their rings so they can quit dying their hair gold?
3. Is it just me or are the same people who complained about the heat now complaining about the cold?
4. Who went to the football game only after they heard we were going to win?
5. How many people fell down the steps at the football game?
6. How many boppers did you count wearing short skirts this week even though it was 20 degrees below outside?
7. How many freshmen does it take to screw in a light bulb?
8. How many people are not going to see Patti?
9. And how many of you will be seen scalping tickets out front?
10. Why doesn't KFC have value meals anymore?
11. What is G.T.'s real name?
12. Which will come first: May 2004 Commencement or Channel 35 in your room?
13. Why is it that no one wants to drink PV's water, but no one has a problem using the ice cubes?
14. How many workers can you spot who are still wearing Jherri Curls?
15. Who rented the black Navigator with their over payment checks?
16. Why are people with no cars complaining about how high the cost of gas is?
17. How is Hilliard missing a million dollars worth of equipment when the building isn't even worth that much?
18. Have all of the Dome parties moved to the West Wing of Alumni?
19. How many seniors are there who still haven't passed the TASP test?
20. What do you think?

We want to know what you think. Please submit any questions you may have to The Panther, Suite 23 Drew Hall. Questions are printed at the discretion of The Panther.

Tip of the Week: If you have gold teeth, don't forget to get them cleaned! Halitosis is a very serious condition. ;o)

For voting registration info, see [www.y2vote.org](http://www.y2vote.org)

Y2VOTE

If you don't do it, who will?

Ad  
Council

Federal Voting Assistance Program



# Commentary

## Vestiges created by peculiar institution of slavery linger even today

By Eric Gaither  
Special to the Panther

Native and transplant Texans knowledgeable of state history regard June 19, 1865, or Juneteenth, as a significant event.

As more than an annual, symbolic, and communal occasion, Juneteenth delineates (for many African descended southerners) liberation from slavery.

In short analysis, the arrival of Major General Gordon Granger to Galveston Island signifies an end to chattel slavery and beginning to employer and free laborer relations.

In lengthened and contextual analysis, however, the arrival of Maj. Gen. Granger defines an amorphous moment in the peculiar institution of slavery, a transition from primary to secondary phase, an illusion of freedom offered to Blacks as a secondary and advanced form of brutal and inhumane remedy — a trick.

The brief disappearance of slavery toward the end of the nineteenth century was a ploy for its transition. The industrial North was merging with the agricultural South and its tradition of racial hierarchy and labor delegation.

Slavery resurfaced in the guise of sharecropping as a stratagem, an act to accommodate its insatiable appetite for survival.

Blacks were handicapped by the unwillingness of the dominant powers to compensate them for generations of free labor.

The Black proletariat, or grassroots working class, was never rewarded with a bulk monetary settlement.

Land, states, and monetary compensation, however, were awarded to numerous other non-Black immigrants throughout the history of settlement in the United States.

In the heyday of slavery, its developmental period between the fifteenth and

nineteenth centuries, the heinous forms of brutality used to control diverse populations of Africans were craftily designed and meticulously executed.

Uninhabited islands off the African coastline were used as pilot sites for population control. In a critical work by C.L.R. James, *The Black Jacobins*, the reader gains an introductory level understanding of the link between overpopulation, starvation, and cannibalism (not as endemic, or native, to Africa but introduced to the continent by Portuguese, Spanish, French, and English colonizers).

In the event intra-group depopulation efforts proved lathargic and unsuccessful, the colonists resorted to more expedient and alternative methods of ridding New World colonies of undesirables.

The practice of lynching, or death by mob hanging without legal sanction, took place in a number of colonies in Latin America, North America, and even Dutch Guyana of South America.

The term lynching theoretically derives from the name of an American justice of the peace, Charles Lynch, who presided over an extralegal court to suppress Tory activity in the late eighteenth century.

The perverse act of lynching underwent an evolution from blasé affair to social frenzy.

It eventually turned into a tremendous spectacle, an all-American family outing with food and photographs.

The lynching catalyzed picnicking, which derives from the Old French words pique and nique. In Old French, the word pique translates, to pick. Nique translates to mean a sign of shame or mockery.

The object of mockery in American society was the Negro, which Carter Woodson,

in *Miseducation of the Negro*, refers to as an invention of Europe. African captives were forced into oppressive economic, racial, and class systems, which defined them as lowly Negroes by virtue of capital possession lack, geographi-

cal origins, and cultural behaviors. The term Negro was used by elitist non-Blacks to create a language and vocabulary of oppression, as well as reinforce the racist myth that a human being could be born Negro when, in fact, the Negro was a social construction.

lynched in places many now regard as commercial locales.

In the field behind the Prairie View A&M University post office, the story of a mob, a man, a branch, and a rope hides in obscurity.

It, ironically, was a

ing, because it was marketed as entertainment, a memory tattooed to card prints slightly larger than a baseball card.

The television show *Cops* desensitizes its American public with excitement, predictability, and repetition.



The infamous June 15, 1920, lynching in Duluth, Minnesota, was photographed by Ralph Greenspun. The victims were Elias Clayton, 19; Elmer Jackson, 19; and Isaac McGhie, 20. The photograph later appeared on at least two postcards printed after the lynching.

cal origins, and cultural behaviors. The term Negro was used by elitist non-Blacks to create a language and vocabulary of oppression, as well as reinforce the racist myth that a human being could be born Negro when, in fact, the Negro was a social construction.

The Negro object, helpless and violated, was forced into a position of servitude and upheld before the world as a genetic oddity, an anomaly and outcast.

Non-African nations exploited the talents of Africans, stealing the cultural arts of the continent for museums; the voices for phonograph recordings.

Africans robbed of everything were unjustly accused of being shiftless and intellectually worthless Negroes.

The Negro was a sign of shame or mockery picked to limply hang from trees like Spanish moss.

Black people were

lunchtime conversation of a lynching. The non-fictional history of Prairie View A&M University outdistances its fictitious shortcomings and places it within a historical narrative universal to extraordinary men and women who, brutally victimized and lynched, continue to pass into eternity as silent tragedies.

The fortunate victims (an oxymoron) sell on postcards and in best-seller historiographies.

We pay \$29.95 for impersonal and degrading views of them, neck-in-noose tied to hulking tree branches, black and white images, letters, and death certificates.

The commercialization of lynchings and picnics, in the form of 35-cent postcards, was no less of an insult than when the show *Cops* was advertised with buttered popcorn.

Picnic goers were desensitized, un-phased, by the gruesome nature of a lyn-

It markets and normalizes brutality in a picture tube 20 times larger than the postcard and 200 times larger than the baseball card.

The media choose and broadcast the outcasts and sign(s) of mockery.

They introduce Emmitt Till, Amadou Diallo, and James Byrd to the world: bloated, bullet-riddled, and dismembered.

The media clarify any uncertainties Black people might have about whether a plague of slavery and brutality continues to sweep the nation.

It makes obvious the state of the nation without any presidential radio address.

Black people know the nightstick has replaced the tree limb.

Black people know the roads and highways have replaced the plantations and backwoods.

Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society